pivotable about their substantially horizontal axes so that they all achieve predetermined inclination angles. The particular inclination angle determined depends on the grinding process concerned. The Brundiek et al. patent fails to disclose a blade ring for air-swept roller mills comprising, in addition to other elements, guide blades which are pivotably arranged around a substantially horizontal pivot axis and fixable with a predeterminable pivot angle as claim 1 presently defines. Instead, the guide blades of the Brundiek et al. apparatus are adjustable around their vertically arranged shafts and act as a static classifier in combination with a ledge rotor, which is the dynamic classifier. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable.

The following comments on other patents cited by the Examiner should also be noted. U.S. Patent 5,186,404 to Wark discloses an air flow rate control device for a rotating or a stationary vane throat in a bowl mill pulverizer. The air flow rate control device comprises an adjustable deflector mounted on the lower surfaces of the vanes to provide varying air flow passage cross sections. The steel vanes 22 of the rotating vane assembly 20 surrounding the bowl 18 and rotating therewith are

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welded to a steel inner ring 24 which is mounted for rotation around the bowl 18. Consequently, the vanes are not pivotably arranged and cannot be fixed with a predeterminable pivot angle after an adjustment.

U.S. Patent 5,607,111 to Brundiek describes stationary and adjustable reinforcing cladding segments which are arranged as a function of the grinding rollers. Figure 13 of this patent shows that the reinforcing cladding segments 10 are arranged above the blade ring 12. The blades of the blade ring 12 are disclosed as being arranged tangentially and at a setting angle α; the Examiner's attention is directed to lines 50-52 in column 6 of the Brundiek patent.

U.S. Patent 5,819,947 to Nardi et al. relates to an improved classifier cage for coal pulverizers. The throat 24 is described as having a circular, ring-shaped structure with a number of angled vanes 26 mounted in the throat around the circumference of the pulverizer. The orientation of the vanes 26 of the throat is only relevant in connection with the classifier vanes 36. The throat vanes 26 of Figures 2 and 4 are described as stationary, and the direction of the throat vanes 26 of Figure 4 is reversed relative to the direction of the stationary throat vanes shown

in Figure 2. There is no disclosure that the throat vanes 26 of the Nardi et al. cage are pivotable.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over both the Brundiek et al. patent relied on by the Examiner and each of the additional patents mentioned above. Dependent claims 2-22 are patentable as well.

Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney so that such questions can be answered.

Respectfully submitted,

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